

Curios and Relics

Clothing

Assassination Clothing

Mrs. J. Marvin Smith

Correspondence

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

3. .
P. O. Box 279,
New Bern, N. C.,
February 18th, 1935.

Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Gentlemen:

In a recent issue of "LIBERTY" Magazine, I read with much interest a short story written by Mr. Edward Doherty entitled "LINCOLN AND A FRIGHTENED GIRL" which was inspired, I believe, by certain papers or documents regarding the late Abraham Lincoln contained in your collection.

I would like to bring to your attention a Lincoln relic I have in my possession and in which I think you would be vitally interested.

My grandfather, Alphonse Donn, whose name was sometimes spelled Dunn, was one of the personal guards to the late President Abraham Lincoln. Due to his devotion and faithful service to the President, there arose an intimate friendship between the two. On this account, shortly after the death of the President, Mrs. Lincoln presented to my grandfather the suit of clothing and overcoat which were worn by President Lincoln on the night and at the time of his assassination in Ford's Theater in Washington, D. C.

The suit consists of a black frock coat, vest, trousers and silk stock. The lining of the overcoat is quilted to form an American eagle holding two festoons in its mouth, which bear the words "One Country, One Destiny". Souvenir hunters cut away a good portion of one side of this overcoat when Alphonse Donn was showing the clothes to groups of persons at different times, but otherwise they are in a splendid state of preservation in a safe deposit vault of a Washington, D. C., bank.

Mrs. Lincoln agreed to lend the clothes to a Mr. Wilson, an artist, and I have in my possession a letter written on mourning stationery in Mrs. Lincoln's own handwriting to the effect that the clothes would be delivered to my grandfather when Mr. Wilson no longer required them.

Later, Miss Vinnie Ream, a sculptress, who afterwards married General Hoxey, desired to borrow the clothes from

Lincoln National Life Foundation,

February 18th, 1935.

my grandfather to assist her in modeling the statue of President Lincoln which Congress had commissioned her to make. My grandfather wanted to know how Mrs. Lincoln felt in regard to this proposed loan of the clothes, and in this connection he received several very personal letters from her. One of them reads in part as follows:

"Mrs. Welles writes to my son Robert in regard to the suit of clothes I gave you - and which have been in the possession of Mr. Wilson the artist. She desires them for a Miss Vinnie Ream, an unknown person, who *** obtained from Congress permission to execute a statue of my husband, the late President. From her inexperience, I judge she will be unable to do this, in a faithful manner. For your devoted attentions to President Lincoln, I gave you those clothes, and, *** you need not let them go farther. Retain them always, in memory *** . You will understand me, when I say that it is now time for you to claim them, *** . Let me hear from you on this subject *** and show this letter to no one - only burn it. I feel as I gave them to you - I can dictate a little about them. *** (Signed) MRS. LINCOLN."

(Mrs. Honore W. Morrow, the authoress, mentioned my grandfather's name on several occasions in her book entitled "THE LAST FULL MEASURE". She also mentioned Secretary of the Navy Welles, whose wife was undoubtedly the Mrs. Welles connected with the above letter.)

At the time of my grandfather's death, the clothes were given to my father, Frank W. Donn, and at his death they became the possession of my mother, Mrs. Katherine A. Donn. Before my mother's death, she gave them to me, being her only daughter, nee Dorothy K. Donn. I was born and raised in Washington, D. C., but have lived outside of that city for the past seven years. Before leaving Washington, I placed the relics in a large national bank for safe keeping, as I did not want to move them around the country with me, and they are still there. I communicated with the bank several months ago, and had a reply to the effect that my storage package is in the same condition as when I put it there.

Lincoln National Life Foundation,

February 18th, 1935.

Some years ago my mother, who was then living in Washington, D. C., had her attorney endeavor to have the purchase of the garments underwritten by a group of persons, and for them in turn to donate the relics to the Smithsonian Institute, as she was not in a financial position to donate them herself and felt that that was the proper place for them. (My grandfather had been offered a large sum of money for the clothes by P. T. Barnum, the circus man, but he would not part with them at any price.) It was, of course, necessary that the Smithsonian Institute be assured of the genuineness of the garments before they would accept them, and in consequence communicated with the late Mr. Robert Todd Lincoln, who was then living in Georgetown, Washington, D. C. Later, my mother's attorney advised her that he had heard from the Smithsonian Institute, and that they would accept the garments as being genuine and authentic. Due to the inability of my mother's attorney to obtain a sufficient amount in subscriptions to underwrite the purchase of the relics, this matter was never consummated.

Some time before her death, my mother was very much in need of funds, and at that time was induced to place on sale at auction in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, these garments in question. This was to be an auction composed of historical items, and, on the assurance of the auctioneer that she would be protected if the fixed minimum price she placed on them was not obtained, she was persuaded to offer them for sale. As this price was not obtained, the relics came back to her and have been in the possession of our family ever since.

At the time of this auction, there appeared in a newspaper a statement to the effect that the Chicago Historical Society claimed to have the overcoat worn by President Lincoln at the time of his assassination, and it was hinted that "crooked work" was suspected in regard to these garments. It also stated that undoubtedly an investigation would be instituted by the Chicago Historical Society, but nothing was ever heard from them. Shortly thereafter my mother was stricken with a prolonged illness, and she preferred that the matter be dropped. In accordance with her wishes, nothing further was done in this connection, but recently the matter of the Lincoln garments came to my mind, and I desired to have the entanglement straightened out with the Chicago Society.

Consequently, on September 20th, 1933, I wrote them a letter setting forth all the facts I had in hand. On October 21st, as I had not had a reply from them, I wrote again. A reply was received, dated October 25th. I am enclosing copies of these three letters for your information.

Lincoln National Life Foundation,

February 18th, 1935.

At the 1st Session of the 64th Congress a Bill, H.R. 4712, was introduced providing for the purchase of these garments for the sum of \$7,500.00, copy of said Bill being attached hereto. I am also enclosing herewith copies of affidavits, letters, telegrams, etc., for your information.

Am also sending copy of this letter, with enclosures, to Mr. Edward Doherty, care of "LIBERTY" Magazine, as I believe he could write another very interesting story from the facts contained in this collection.

I realize that this collection should be in a museum where it would be properly cared for and where it would serve a constructive purpose. The Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C., would accept this collection at any time, but I am not in a position financially to make such a donation.

Trusting that you will be interested in the foregoing, and that I may have the pleasure of hearing from you in this connection, I am

Very truly yours,

Mrs. J. Marvin Smith.

MRS. J. MARVIN SMITH.

JMS/d
Encls.

P. S. In the event that this collection should not be of interest to you, I would appreciate it if you would return the enclosed copies of papers to me.

February 28, 1935

Mrs. J. Marvin Smith
P. O. Box 279
New Bern, North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Upon receipt of your very interesting letter containing the many affidavits concerning the Lincoln clothing which you own, we have studied them very thoroughly. It appears to me that if a relic of Lincoln was ever considered authentic, this suit of clothing should be. There is no doubt in my mind whatever but you have a genuine Lincoln relic and one of very great interest and great value.

Our Foundation located in Fort Wayne is composed principally of literature. We boast of the fact that we have in our collection the largest amount of literature about one man that has ever been gathered since the beginning of time, biblical characters excepted. Our appropriations have always been for books, documents, pictures, photographs, etc. concerning Lincoln. We have never endeavored to develop a large museum. It is our plan to make Fort Wayne the center of Lincoln information in America and while we do have a small collection of curios and relics pertaining to Lincoln, we have never invested a great amount of money in them. We feel we have something here which should be placed in a larger museum. Our limited appropriation would not permit us to purchase such an item.

We are most grateful to you for giving us this information. We have had the copy photostated and placed in the files of our curio collection. We regret that at this time we are not able to consider the purchase of this item.

Yours very truly,

RGM:LH
R. Gerald McMurtry

Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

C O P Y

P. O. Box 279,
New Bern, N. Car.,
September 20th, 1933.

Mr. L. Hubbard Shattuck, Director,
Chicago Historical Society,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Shattuck:

Receipt is acknowledged of your favor of August 17th, in reply to an inquiry addressed by me to the Chicago Chamber of Commerce in regard to your Society.

Some years ago my mother, Mrs. Katherine A. Donn, who resided in Washington, D. C., placed on sale at auction in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, an historical relic; namely, the suit of clothing and overcoat worn by the late President Abraham Lincoln on the night of his assassination at Ford's Theater in Washington, D. C., together with letters from Mrs. Lincoln in regard to the garments, and affidavits and papers substantiating the authenticity of the relics. At the time of the auction, my mother placed a minimum price on the relics, and only consented to the auction with the distinct understanding with the auctioneer that she would be protected if the price named by her was not reached. It was originally not her intention to have an auction sale, but rather a private sale at the price she asked, but was persuaded to sell at auction on the assurance that the auctioneer would either obtain the fixed price, or have his representative bid the relics in. As this latter action was taken, the relics came back to her, and have remained in the family since that time.

Just after this happening, a statement was given to the press by your Society to the effect that it had in its possession the coat alleged to have been worn by the late President Abraham Lincoln on the night of his assassination, and that it had prized and exhibited this for a great many years. The news article hinted that crooked work was suspected in connection with the reported sale of the garments by my mother, and that your Society would no doubt institute an investigation. Notwithstanding this news article, no investigation was

Mr. L. Hubbard Shattuck,

September 20th, 1933.

apparently ever made, as my mother heard nothing further of it, and, due to her illness shortly thereafter, which was prolonged until her subsequent death, the matter was permitted to rest.

As I am the present owner of the relics under discussion, permit me to state a few facts in this connection. I am the granddaughter of the late Alphonse Donn (sometimes spelled Dunn), who was one of the personal guards of President Lincoln. About ten days after the assassination, Mrs. Lincoln presented the suit of clothes and overcoat worn by her husband on that fatal night to my grandfather because of his devotion and faithful service to the President. This suit consists of a frock coat, vest, trousers and black silk stock. The quilted lining of the overcoat is embossed with the figure of an eagle holding two festoons in its mouth, bearing the words "One Country, One Destiny". This overcoat has some blood stains on the collar, but the back and side have been rather badly mutilated by souvenir hunters. Otherwise, the clothes are in a good state of preservation. Having been born and raised in Washington, D. C., the clothes are kept in a safe deposit vault in a bank in Washington, although I have been living outside of that city for the past six years.

My grandfather, Alphonse Donn, was offered \$20,000.00 for the clothes by P. T. Barnum, of circus fame, but for sentimental reasons he could not be induced to part with them as they were given to him by Mrs. Lincoln and were worn by Abraham Lincoln at the time of his assassination.

The suit was loaned, with Mrs. Lincoln's consent, to a Mr. Wilson, an artist. Later, Miss Vinnie Ream, a sculptress, who subsequently married General Hoxey, applied to my grandfather for the use of the clothes to aid her in modeling a statue of President Lincoln, as she had been commissioned by Congress to make such a statue. My grandfather then applied to Mrs. Lincoln to learn her pleasure with regard to this proposed loan of the clothes, and he received certain letters from her with reference to same. The clothes were subsequently loaned to Miss Ream. Thereafter the clothes were returned to Alphonse Donn, and have been in the possession of our family ever since. It should at this time be

Mr. L. Hubbard Shattuck,

September 20th, 1933.

borne in mind that the precautions taken by both Mrs. Lincoln and my grandfather regarding these clothes were greater than would have been taken in an ordinary suit belonging to the President.

At the time of my grandfather's death, the clothes were left in the possession of my father, Frank W. Donn, and at the time of his death they became the possession of my mother, Mrs. Katherine Donn. My mother died about four years ago, and as the relics are now in my possession (nee Dorothy K. Donn), being the only daughter of Mrs. Donn and the granddaughter of the late Alphonse Donn, to whom the Lincoln garments were originally given by Mrs. Lincoln, it is my desire to have them placed in an institution of the proper type, where they will be preserved for years to come, and where they might be viewed by the public and serve a constructive purpose.

I first wanted to find out something of your Society because of the statements it made, as already referred to, as I felt that, after you had sufficiently investigated the relics in my possession and had found them to be absolutely genuine and authentic, you would want them for your own, and especially so in the face of the fact that you have been displaying for a number of years the coat alleged to have been worn by President Lincoln on that fatal night.

I am not in a position financially to donate these relics to an historical society or other similar institution, but would be interested in having the purchase underwritten by a person or group of persons for the purpose of them making such a donation in their name.

At one time in Washington, prior to the auction, an attorney there undertook to have the purchase underwritten for my mother and the donation of the relics made to the Smithsonian Institute. It was first necessary for him to satisfy the Smithsonian as to the genuineness of the articles in question, and in that connection the Institute communicated with Mr. Robert Todd Lincoln, who was then alive and residing in Georgetown, Washington, D. C. After the Institute communicated with Mr. Lincoln, who as you know was the

Mr. L. Hubbard Shattuck,

September 20th, 1933.

last surviving son of the late President Lincoln, my mother's attorney advised her that he had heard from the Institute and that they would accept the garments as being genuine and authentic.

For your further information, I am attaching hereto copies of the letters, papers and affidavits which bear directly on the relics, and establish without a shadow of doubt the absolute authenticity of the garments worn by President Lincoln at the time of his assassination. The letter from Mrs. Lincoln, written in her own hand writing, dated March 18th, 1867, and addressed to my grandfather, to whom she gave the garments, is sufficient in itself to prove the authenticity, irrespective of all of the other papers, etc.

If your Society is interested in having these relics, after you have made a full and complete investigation, I would be glad to hear from you further.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) MRS. J. MARVIN SMITH.

Encls.

C O P Y

P. O. Box 279,
New Bern, N. Car.,
October 21st, 1933.

Mr. L. Hubbard Shattuck, Director,
Chicago Historical Society,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Shattuck:

Please refer to my letter of September 20th to you with regard to certain historical relics, namely, the suit of clothing and overcoat worn by the late President Abraham Lincoln on the night of his assassination in Ford's Theater, Washington, D. C.

In view of the fact that more than a month's time has elapsed since this letter was written to you, it will be greatly appreciated if you will favor me with a reply, advising as to whether you are interested.

Thanking you for your kindness in this matter,
I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed) MRS. J. MARVIN SMITH.

C O P Y

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October 25, 1933.

Mrs. J. Marvin Smith,
P. O. Box 279
New Bern
North Carolina.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I see that there has been over a months delay in answering your letter of September 20th. In some unaccountable way this letter was placed to one side and not properly brought to my attention.

We regret to say that the Society has no fund at the present time with which to make any historical purchases. It may be that I will be able at a near date to place you in touch with persons who may be interested in your item and if so I should be pleased to refer them to you.

Thanking you very much for bringing this matter to our attention.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) L. H. SHATTUCK

Director.

LHS:PW

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: ss

Comes now Bridget A. Rainey, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she was born on or about March 17, 1843, in Ireland, that she came to the United States when seven years of age, and at that time took up her residence in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, and has since continuously resided therein; that she was personally very well acquainted with one Alphonse Donn, or Dunn (hereinafter spelled "Donn"), who during his lifetime resided in the said District of Columbia, that she was related to the said Alphonse Donn through marriage in the following manner: That the said Alphonse Donn was married to the sister of affiant's husband; that the said Alphonse Donn was formerly a member of the Police Department of the City of Washington, District of Columbia; that during the early part of the administration of Abraham Lincoln, as President of the United States, the said Alphonse Donn left the said Police Department to become one of the personal guards of President Lincoln, and that he remained in such service until after the death of President Lincoln; that thereafter he served in one capacity or another at the White House continuously through the different administrations down to and including part of the administration of President Cleveland; that shortly after the assassination of President Lincoln, according to the information given to affiant by the said Alphonse Donn, Mrs. Lincoln promised to give to the said Alphonse Donn, as a token of appreciation for his services, and owing to his great love and respect for the President, the suit of clothes worn by the President on the night and at the time of his assassination; that one evening about ten days or two weeks after the death of the President, the affiant was invited to call at the home of the said Alphonse Donn for the purpose of observing the said suit of clothes which the said Alphonse Donn expected to receive on that evening; that affiant did so call at the house of said Alphonse Donn, and upon her arrival found that several persons were gathered for the same purpose; that during the course of the evening the said Alphonse Donn arrived from the White House and brought with him the said suit of clothes which the said Alphonse Donn stated had been given to him that day by Mrs. Lincoln as the suit of clothes worn by the President at the time of his assassination; that the suit then consisted of a silk hat, fur collar piece, tie overcoat, coat, vest and trousers; that thereafter a sculptress, one Vinnie Ream (after her marriage, Vinnie Ream Hoxey or Hoxie), obtained the said suit of clothes from the said Alphonse Donn to use in modeling a statue of the President; that before the said Alphonse Donn would loan the said suit of clothes for the above mentioned purpose, he applied to Mrs. Lincoln for the purpose of learning her pleasure in regard to same; that thereafter the same clothes were returned by the said Vinnie Ream to the said Alphonse Donn; that according to affiant's best knowledge and information, the said Alphonse Donn refused to permit the said suit of clothes to go out of his possession during the remainder of his lifetime, with the above exception; that affiant was told by the said Alphonse Donn that P. T. Barnum, the owner at that time of a circus by the same name, had offered to him the sum of \$20,000.00 for the said suit of clothes, but that the said Alphonse Donn would not sell the suit for any sum of money; that affiant knows that the said suit of clothes is now in the possession of Mrs. Katherine Donn, who is the daughter-in-law of the said Alphonse Donn; that affiant is satisfied, from all attending circumstances, that the said suit of clothes is the suit of clothes which was worn by President Lincoln on the night and at the time of his assassination.

(x)

(Sgd) BRIDGET A. RAINEY
(her mark)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of May, A. D., 1920.

(Sgd) HENRY GILLIGAN

Notary Seal.

Notary Public, D. C.

C O P Y

Commissioners of the District of Columbia
Health Department
Washington

March 1, 1916.

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the frock coat, vest, trousers, and overcoat, now in the possession of Mrs. Kate Donn, widow of Frank Donn, who was the son of Alphonse Donn (often pronounced Dunn), were the clothes worn by the late President Abraham Lincoln on the night he was assassinated.

I base this belief on the following reasons: For thirty-five years I have known that this family has jealously guarded these clothes, and that the late Alphonse Donn was offered a large brick house in Washington by the late P. T. Barnum for these clothes, but that nothing could induce him to part with them.

These clothes could only have been worn by a very large man and are disfigured by blood. Furthermore, I have seen letters from Mrs. Lincoln to Mr. A. Donn authorizing him to loan these clothes to two sculptors, a Mr. Wilson and Vinnie Reems. Such precautions as were made by both Mrs. Lincoln and Mr. Donn would not have been taken of any ordinary clothes worn by Mr. Lincoln.

Mr. Donn was an usher at the White House, from the beginning of Mr. Lincoln's administration to that of Mr. Cleveland's, and was held in the highest esteem by Mr. Lincoln and accompanied him on most of his trips during the Civil War; it being this personal friendship and confidence in him which instigated the gift of these clothes to Mr. Donn by Mrs. Lincoln. The sculptors mentioned would not have wanted these clothes unless they had the historic value stated by me. The overcoat is lined with silk and is embossed with a figure of the American eagle holding two festoons in its mouth on which is inscribed "One Country, One Destiny".

Respectfully,

(Signed) J. P. Turner, V.M.D.

C O P Y
AFFIDAVIT

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: ss

Comes now Alexander James Kane, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he was born on October 3, 1949, in the City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania; that thereafter, when about two weeks old, he was brought to the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, by his parents, that he has since that time continuously resided in the said District of Columbia; that he was personally well acquainted with one Alphonse Donn, or Dunn (hereinafter spelled "Donn"); that the said Alphonse Donn was employed during the administration of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, as a personal guard of the President; that shortly after the assassination of President Lincoln, according to statements made to affiant by the said Alphonse Donn, Mrs. Lincoln promised to give to the said Alphonse Donn the suit of clothes worn by the President on the night and at the time of his assassination; that thereafter Mrs. Lincoln gave to the said Alphonse Donn the said suit of clothes; that affiant knows that several offers in money were made to the said Alphonse Donn for the said suit of clothes, but that the said Alphonse Donn refused to part with the same; that to the best information and belief of the affiant, the said Alphonse Donn retained continuous possession of the said suit of clothes after receiving the same, with one exception, to-wit: that the suit of clothes was at one time loaned to one Vinnie Ream (after her marriage, Vinnie Ream Hoxey or Hoxie), a sculptress, for the purpose of aiding the said Vinnie Ream in making a statue of the President; that affiant inspected the suit of clothes in the possession of said Alphonse Donn, and knows that the suit of clothes now in the possession of Mrs. Katherine Donn, who is the daughter-in-law of the said Alphonse Donn, is the same suit of clothes as those which were originally given to the said Alphonse Donn; that according to affiant's best information and belief, the said suit of clothes is the suit which was worn by President Lincoln on the night and at the time of his assassination.

(Signed) Alexander J. Kane

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of May, A. D., 1920.

(Signed) Oden B. Gray

Notary Public.

Notary Seal.

C O P Y

(Original on mourning stationery)

The suit of clothes used by Mr. Wilson will
be delivered to Mr. Dunn, when he no longer requires
them.

(Signed) Mrs. Lincoln

May 20th, 1865.

C O P Y

PRIVATE

Chicago, March 18th.

Mr. Dunn -

Mrs. Welles writes to my son Robert in regard to the suit of clothes I gave you - and which have been in the possession of Mr. Wilson the artist. She desires them for a Miss Vinnie Ream, an unknown person, who by much forwardness & unladylike persistence, obtained from Congress permission to execute a statue of my husband, the late President. From her inexperience, I judge she will be unable to do this, in a faithful manner. For your devoted attentions to President Lincoln, I gave you those clothes, and, after the loan you have made of them - without you see proper, you need not let them go farther. Retain them always, in memory of the best and noblest man that ever lived.

You will understand me, when I say that it is now time for you to claim them, and you need feel under no obligations to allow them to pass out of your possession at this time. Let me hear from you on this subject when you receive this letter - and show this letter to no one - only burn it. I feel as I gave them to you - I can dictate a little about them. Write on receipt of this. What you say will not be mentioned - as I remain your friend

(Signed) MRS. LINCOLN.

Use your own discretion about lending the clothes but as they are a gift from me you are under no obligations to yield them into other hands. All this you will understand. I do not wish my name mentioned in it. Write me all about it.

Burn this & mention contents to no one.

PRIVATE

C O P Y

April 2d - 67.

Mr. A. Donn -

I write you in haste, merely to say -
that you can act as you please in the matter.
This Miss Ream, is an entire stranger to me
and mine - and I expect very inexperienced in
her work, but I trust very sincerely, she may
succeed.

I remain your friend

(Signed) MRS. A. LINCOLN

C O P Y

New York City,

March 15, 1867.

My dear Sir:

I have seen Mr. Wilson today and he has promised to send the clothes to Miss Ream by express within two or three days. I think he will send them but I will keep Mrs. Lincoln's order until I know they are received and then send it to you. I have written to Miss Ream that they will be sent to her, and asked her to inform me if they are not received by the middle of next week. I shall be in New York again within a few weeks and will look further after the gentleman then if he fails to fulfill his promise.

Very truly,

Yours etc.

(Signed) (?) Rice.

Mr. A. Donn,

Executive Mansion,

Washington, D. C.

C O P Y

April 22nd, 1867.

Received of A. Dunn a full suit, consisting of coat, pants, vest and stock, of Mr. Lincoln's clothing.

(Signed) VINNIE REAM.

C O P Y

64th Congress

1st Session - H. R. 4712.

In the House of Representatives

December 14, 1915.

Mr. Roberts of Massachusetts introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Library and ordered to be printed:

A BILL

Providing for the purchase of the suit of clothes worn by President Lincoln at the time of his assassination.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

That there is hereby appropriated, out of any unexpended moneys of the amount set aside for the construction and expenses of the Lincoln Memorial, the sum of \$7,500 for the purchase of the suit of clothes worn by the late President Lincoln at the time of his assassination in Ford's Theatre, in the City of Washington, District of Columbia, April 15th, 1865.

Sec. 2. That the chairman of the Lincoln Memorial Commission is hereby authorized and directed to make this purchase.

C O P Y

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH

12.45 P.M.

March 25, 1865.

By Telegraph from City Point, Va.

To Mr. Dunn
Door Keeper
Ex. Mansion

ASK CUTHBERT WHY MY TELEGRAM OF YESTERDAY HAS
NOT BEEN ANSWERED. REPLY IMMEDIATELY.

MRS. LINCOLN.

C O P Y

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH
WAR DEPARTMENT

The following Telegram received at Washington, 12.35 P.M.
April 1, 1865

From City Point, Va., April 1, 1865.

Mr. Dunn
Door Keeper, Ex. Mansion.

HAVE BURKE THE COACHMAN HAVE THE CLOSE CARRIAGE
AT ARSENAL WHARF AT EIGHT (8) O'CLOCK SUNDAY
MORNING WITHOUT FAIL AND REMAIN UNTIL MRS. LINCOLN
ARRIVES WHICH WILL BE ABOUT THAT TIME.

A. LINCOLN.

C O P Y

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, May 22, 1865.

The bearer, A. Donn, has attended the door here for some time & has given entire satisfaction. I would cheerfully recommend him for a similar position in any of the Departments.

(Signed) R. T. LINCOLN.

to you

If you would like to see the clothes again you can call any afternoon and my mother would only be too glad to show them to you. I am a school-girl, twelve years of age and would like very much to see the lady who made the famous when she sculptured the great statue of Lincoln.

Your little admirer,

Dorothy Lane.
[DORR]

829 Cleveland Street, U.C.

Washington, D.C.

February 14, 1913

Dear Miss Horie:

I read with great interest your article in last Sunday's Star of your visits to Abraham Lincoln before his death.

You will understand why I am so interested, when I tell you that my father has the suit of clothes that you made when you made this statue and we still have the receipt you signed, when my grandfather loaned you the suit, signed by Vinnie Ream, your maiden name. Also some letters from Mrs. Lincoln regarding the suit. We still have friends

who ask to see the cloths occasionally,
but my father says when he was young,
strangers would come every day to see them,
and one day after three men had left the
house we discovered the out side coat had
a large piece cut from the shoulder. If
you remember, the coat was worked on
the inside lining with an eagle holding
a steamer in its talons with the country,
our destiny as the motto, and above it a
large shield.

In about the year 1874 my grand-
father was offered ten thousand dollars
for them by P. T. Barnum, but he thought
too much of President Lincoln to sell
them for that purpose. My father tried
to get Congress to buy them for the
National Museum, but did not succeed.

I hope you will not think me
forward in writing thus to you, but
I just had to tell you, as I am sure
you must sometimes wonder ^{what} had become
of the suit. I asked my father if I
could write to you and he gave his
permission, so that and the interest in
your article are the reasons for writing.

Chief of Police. ~~of~~ in the District of Columbia = Wm. B. Webb

Four police officers detailed to be a special guard
for President Lincoln. They were:

Elphonso Dunn

John Parker

Alexander Smith

Thomas Pendel

Wm. H. Craik; through Frae
administrations. Harper & Bras
1910.

